TO THE KINGS Most Excellent MAIESTIE.

The humble

PETITION

OF THE COMMONS

Of the Generall Assembly of the *Kirke* of *Scotland*, met at *Edinborough*, *January*, 4th. 1642.

And now lately presented to his *Majestie*, At OXFORD.

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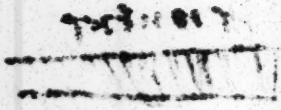

TO THE KINGS MOST Excellent MAIESTIE.

The humble Petition of the *Commissioners* of the generall Assembly of the Kirke of SCOTLAND, met at EDENBOROUGH, *Jan.* 4. 1643.

OVr silence and ceasing to present before your *Majestie* our humble thoughts and desires at this time of common danger to Religion, to your *Majesties* sacred Person, your Crowne and Posterity, and to all your *Majesties* Domions, were impiety against GOD, unthankfulnesse and disloyalty against your *Majestie*, and indirect approbation and hardning of the Adversaries of truth and peace in their wicked wayes, and a crueltie against our Brethren, lying in such depths of affliction and anguish of Spirit. Any one of which crimes were in us above all others unexcusable, and would prove us most unworthy of the trust committed unto us. The flame of this common Combustion hath almost devoured *Ireland*, is now wasting the Kingdome of *England*, and we cannot tell how soone it shall enter upon our selves, and set this your *Majesties* most ancient and Native Kingdome on fire. If in this wofull case and lamentable condition of your *Majesties* Dominions all others should be silent, it behoveth us to speake; and if our Tongues and Pennes should cease, our Consciences within us would cry out, and the stones in the Streets would answer us.

Our great griefe and apprehenſion of danger is not a little increaſed, partly by the inſolencie and preſumption of Papiſts and others diſaffected to the Reformation of Religion, who although for their number and power they be not conſiderable amongſt us, yet through the ſucceſſe of the Popiſh party in *Ireland*, and the hopes they conceive of the prevailing power of Popiſh Armies, and the Prelaticall Faction in *England*, they have of late taken ſpirit, and begun to ſpeak big words againſt the reformation of Religion and the work of God in this Land, and partly and more principally, that a chiefe praiſe of the Proteſtant Religion, (and thereby our not vaine, but juſt gloriation) is by the publique Declaration of the Earle of *Newcaſtle*, Generall of your *Maieſties* forces for the Northern parts, and neereſt unto us, transferred unto Papiſts. Who although they be ſworn Enemies unto Kings, and be as infamous for their treaſons and Conſpiracies againſt Princes and Rulers, as for their knowne Idolatry and ſpirituall Tyranny; yet are they openly declared to be not onely good Subjects, or better Subjects, but farre better Subjects then Proteſtants, which is a new and foule diſparagement of the reformed Religion, a notable injury to your *Maeſty* in your honour, a ſenſible reflectiō upon the whole body of this *Kingdom*, which is impatiēt that any ſubjects ſhould be more loyall then they; but abhorreth & extreamly diſdaineth that Papiſts who refuſe to take the Oath of *Allegiance* ſhould be cōpared with them in Allegiance and fidelity, and (which being a ſtrange Doctrine from the mouth or Pen of profeſſed Proteſtants, will ſuffer a hard conſtructiō from all the reformed *Kirks*.

Wee therfore your Maieſties moſt humble and loving Subjects, upon theſe and the like conſiderations, do humbly intreat, that your *Maeſty* may be pleaſed in your Princely wiſedome; Firſt, to conſider that the intentions of Papiſts directed by the Principles of their Profeſſion are no other then they have been from the beginning, even to build their *Babell*, and to ſet up their execrable Idolatry and Antichriſtian Tyranny in all your Majeſties Dominions, to change the face of your two Kingdoms of *Scotland* and *England* into the ſimilitude of miſerable *Ireland*, which is more bitter to the People of God your *Maieſties* good

good Subjects to thinke upon then death: and whatsoever their present pretences be for the defence of your Majesties Person, and Authority, yet in the end by their Armes and power, with a displayed banner, to bring that to passe against your Royall Person and posterity, which the fift of *November* (never to bee forgotten) was unable by their subtill and undermining treason to produce: or which will be their greatest mercy, to reduce your Majesty and your Kingdomes to the base and unnaturall slavery of their Monarch the Pope.

And next, that your Majesty upon this undeniable evidence may timously, and speedily apply your Royall Authority for disbanding their forces, suppressing their power, and disappointing their bloudie and mercilesse projects.

And for this end we are with greater earnestnesse then before constrained, to fall downe againe before your Maiestie, and in all humility to renew the supplication of the late generall assembly, and our owne former Petition in their name, for unity of Religion, and for uniformity of Churh government, in all your Maiesties Kingdoms, and to this effect for a meeting of som Divines to be holden in *England*; unto which according to the desire of your Maiesties Parliament some Commissioners may be sent from this Kirke, that in all points to bee proponed and debated, there may be the greater consent and harmony. Wee take the boldnesse to be the more instant in this our humble desire, because it concerneth the Lord Iesus Christ so much in his glory, your Majesty in your honour, the Kirke of *England*, (which wee ought to tender as our owne bowells, and whose reformation is more deare unto us, then our lives) in her happinesse, and the Kirke of *Scotland* in her purity and peace, former experience, and daily sense teaching us, that without the reformation of the Kirke of *Engiland*, there is no hope or possibilitie of the continuance of reformation here.

The Lord of Heaven and Earth, whose Vicegerent your *Majesty* is, calleth you for this great worke of Reformation at your hands, and the present commotions and troubles of your *Majesties* Dominions, are either preparation in the mercy of God for this blessed Reformation and Unity of Religion (which

is the desire, prayer, and expectation, of all your *Majestie* good Subjects in this Kingdom) or which they tremble to think upon) and earnestly deprocate, are in the justice of God for the abuse of the Gospell, the tollerating of Idolatry, and superstition against so cleare a light, and not acknowledging the day of visitation, the beginning of such a dolefull desolation, as no pollicy or power of man shall be able to prevent, and as shall make your *Maiesties* Kingdomes within a short time as miserable, as they may be happy by a reformation of Religion. God forbid that whil'st the Houses of *Parliament*, doe professe their desire of the reformation of Religion, in peaceable and Parliamentary way, and passe their Bills for that end in the particulars, that your *Maiesty*, the Nurse, Father of the Kirk of Christ, to whose care the custody and vindication of Religion doth principally belong, shall to the provoking of the anger of God, the stopping of the influence of so many blessings from Heaven, and the grieving of the hearts of all the godly, frustrate our expectation, make our hopes ashamed, and hazard the losse of the hearts of all your good Subjects, which next unto the truth and unity of Religion, and the safety of your Kingdomes, are willing to hazard their lives, and spend their bloud for your *Maiesties* Honour, and happinesse.

Wee are not ignorant that the worke is great, the difficulties and impediments be many, and that there be both Mountaines and Lions in the way: the strongest let, till it be taken out of the way, is the Mountaine of *Prelacy*, and no wonder if your Majesty consider how many Papists, and popishly affected, have for a long time found peace and ease under the shadow thereof, how many of the Prelaticall faction have thereby their life and being; how many prophane and worldly men doe feare the yoke of Christ, and are unwilling to submit themselves to the obedience of the Gospell, and how many there be whose eyes are dazaled with the externall pompe and glory of the Kirke whose mindes are miscarried with a conceipt of the governing of the Kirk by the rules of humane pollicie, and whose hearts are affrighted with the apprehensions of the dangerous consequences which may ensue upon alterations. But when your Majesty in your

your Princely and Religious Wiſedome, ſhall remember from the Records of former times, how againſt the gates of Hell, the force and fraud of worldly and wicked men, and all Panick feares of danger, the Chriſtian Religion was firſt planted, and the Chriſtian Kirke thereafter reformed; and from the condition of the preſent times, how many from the experience of the tyrannie of *Prelates* are afraid to diſcover themſelves, leſt they be revenged upon them hereafter, whereas Prelacy being removed they would openly profeſſe what they are, and joyne with others in the way of Reformation. All obſtacles and difficulties ſhall be but matter of the manifeſtation of the power of God, the principall worker; and the meanes of the greater glory to your *Majeſty* the prime inſtrument.

The intermixture of the Government of *Prelates*, with the civill State, mentioned in your Maieſties anſwer, to our former Petition, being taken away, and the right government by aſſemblies, which is to bee ſeene in all the reformed Kirkes: And wherein the agreement will be eaſie being ſetled. The Kirke and religion will be more pure and free of mixture, and the civill Government more ſound and firme, that goverment of the Kirke muſt ſuit beſt with the civill State, and be moſt uſefull for *Kings* and Kingdoms, which is beſt warranted by God, by whom *Kings* doe raigne, and Kingdomes are eſtabliſhed: Nor can a Reformation be expected in the common and ordinary way, expreſſed alſo in your Majeſties anſwer, the wiſeſt and moſt religious Princes, have found it impoſſible, and implying a repugnancy, ſince the *perſons* to be reformed, and the reformers muſt be divers, *and the way* of reformation muſt bee different from the corrupt way, by which defections of workemen, and corruption in doctrine, worſhip, and Government, have ented into the Kirke. Suffer us therefore dread Soveraigne, to renew our Petitions for this unity of Religion, and uniformity of Kirke government, and for a meeting of ſome Divines of both Kingdomes who may prepare matters for your Maieſties view, and for the examination and approbation of more full aſſemblies; The Nationall aſſembly of this Kirke, from which we have our Commiſsion, did promiſe in their thankeſgiving, for the many favours expreſſed in

your

your Maieſties letter, their beſt endeavour to keepe the people under their charge in unity and peace, and in Loyalty and obedience to your Maiesty and your Lawes, which we confeſſe is a duty well beſeeming the preachers of the Goſpell.

But we cannot conceale how much both Paſtors and people, are grieved and diſquieted, with the late reports of the ſucceſſe, boldneſſe and ſtrength of Popiſh forces in *Ireland* and *England*, and how much danger from the power of ſo malicious and bloody enemies is apprehended, to the Religion and peace of this Kirke and Kingdome, conceivedb y them to bee the ſpring whence have iſſued all their calamities and miſeries: Which we humbly remonſtrate to your Majeſtie as a neeeſſi ty requiring a generall aſſembly, and do earneſtly; ſupplicate for the preſence and aſſiſtance of your Majeſties Commiſſioners, at the day to be appointed, that by univerſall conſent of the whole Kirke, the beſt courſe may be taken for the preſervation of Religion, and for the avering of the great wrath which they conceive to be imminent to this Kingdome. If it ſhall pleaſe the Lord, in whoſe hand is the heart of the King, as the Rivers of waters, to turne it whitherſoever he will; to incline your Majeſties heart to this through Reformation, no more to tollerate the Maſſe, or any part of Romiſh ſuperſtition or Tyranny, and to command that all good meanes bee uſed for the converſion of your Princely Conſort, the Queenes Majeſtie (which is alſo the humble deſire of this whole Kirke and Kingdome) your ioynt comforts ſhall be multiplied, above the dayes of your affliction, to your incredible joy: Your glory ſhall ſhine in brightneſſe, above all your Royall Progenitors, to the admiration of the world, & the terror of your enemies, and your Kingdomes, ſo farre abound in righteouſneſſe, peace and proſperity, above all that hath beene in former Generations, that they ſhall ſay, *it is good for us that we have been afflicted.*

FINIS.